

# Kingston Mechanics' Institute

(From the British Whig issue of Tuesday, March 11, 1834)

On Friday evening a numerous and most highly respectable body of mechanics, interspersed with some few of the inhabitants of Kingston, assembled at McKay Tavern, to discuss the propriety of forming a Mechanics Institute. Some of the leading and old Mechanics of the town were not present, their absence being occasioned it is presumed from pique, in not being consulted previous to the calling of the meeting. The staying away was unkind; they should have recollected that it is now three years since a Mechanics Institute has been in full operation at York, during which time, ample opportunity has been afforded them to establish a similar institution in Kingston, and if they have not thought proper so to do, they should not blame their younger tradesmen if they step forward to do that, which more properly belonged to them. Another cause why they were not consulted is, that neither of the two originators of the meeting, Mr. D. Urquhart or Mr. C. Sewell, has much personal acquaintance among his fellow tradesmen, or we make no doubt, that every concession would have been made to the opinions and wishes of the elder tradesmen. As it is, we trust that petty jealousies of any kind will be avoided and that the whole corps of mechanicals will muster strongly at the Court House on Friday evening next to receive the report of the Constitutional Committee and to elect the office bearers of the Infant Society.

At a general meeting of the Mechanics and others friendly to the forming of a Mechanics Literary Institute, held pursuant to public notice, in McKay's Tavern, Kingston on Friday evening, the 7th of March, 1834, Mr. Charles Sewell was elected chairman and William Lesslie, secretary. The Chairman having explained the object of the meeting, it was—

I. Proposed by Mr. James Bryant, seconded by Mr. Cone;—

That it is expedient to establish a Scientific and Literary Society to be called the Kingston Mechanics Institution.

II. Proposed by Mr. D. Williamson, seconded by Mr. S. Harrison;—

That a committee of twelve persons be nominated to draft a set of regulations for the government of said institution and that they report thereon to the adjourned meeting.

III. Proposed by Mr. John McLeod, seconded by Mr. Cone;—

That the said committee be instructed to inquire for an eligible room or place of meeting for the Institution and that they have power to receive names of persons wishing to become members and generally to do such other work as they may judge necessary for the welfare of the Institution.

IV. The meeting elected the Committee of Twelve of the following persons;—Messrs. A. J. Fern, D. Urquhart, Francis M. Hill, Dr. Barker, William Lesslie, John Cullen, Charles Sewell, John Spence, John McLeod, Thomas Smith, John Butterworth and Simon Harrison.

V. Proposed by Dr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Stewart;—

That this meeting do now adjourn till next Friday evening at the Court House at half past six o'clock to receive the report of the Committee.

VI. Mr. John McLeod having taken the chair, the thanks of the meeting was given by acclamation to Mr. Sewell for his able conduct as Chairman.